

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 /104 W
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R 111728Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5310
SECDEF WASHDC//ASD/ISA
USCINCEUR/VAIHINGEN GE/ECJ 4/7-SA//
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 DAKAR 6126

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SG, FR, MOPS
SUBJECT: U.S. MATERIAL SUPPORT TO SENEGAL

REF: (A) DAKAR 5719, (B) DAKAR 5899, (C) STATE 198356

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AUGUST 10 SENEGALESE CHIEF OF STAFF
PROVIDED DATT WITH LIST OF UNREIMBURSED MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT
AND OTHER COSTS RESULTING FROM GOS PARTICIPATION IN UN/
LEBANON AND ZAIRE OPERATIONS. THIS WAS FOLLOW-UP TO AF
ASST. SECRETARY MOOSE'S TALK WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR
JULY 27 AND TO A LONG SERIES OF POINTED MESSAGES FROM
SENGHOR, INCLUDING HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT AND OTHER
HIGH US OFFICIALS IN EARLY JUNE. LIST IS ADVANCE AND
PRELIMINARY; DOES NOT CONSTITUTE OFFICIAL REQUEST AT THIS
TIME, BUT IS RATHER FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES. TOTAL LIST
COSTS OUT AT ESTIMATED \$14.7 MILLION; OVER 70
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PERCENT IN COMMUNICATIONS AND AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT.
CHIEF OF STAFF TOLD DATT THAT BECAUSE OF LEBANON AND
ZAIRE OPERATIONS SENEGAL'S STRATEGIC RESERVE AND DEFENSES
ARE SERIOUSLY WEAKENED. TWO ISSUES OUGHT TO BE FACED
NOW: FIRST, WHETHER WE REDIRECT SENEGALESE BACK TO
FRENCH AS OVERALL DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS. WE THINK
NOT. US INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE SERVED BECAUSE PUTTING

THE FRENCH IN DRIVER'S SEAT WOULD ONLY PROVIDE FURTHER AMMUNITION TO AFRICAN CRITICS OF FRENCH ROLE AND UNDERCUT WILL OF AFRICAN MODERATES LIKE SENEGAL TO DEVISE AN AFRICAN RESPONSE TO SITUATIONS LIKE SHABA. (WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO HAVE FULL AND FRANK CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRENCH AND TRY TO MAKE THEM ASSUME AN IMPORTANT SHARE.) SECOND ISSUE IS WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL. WE THINK THIS HAS TO BE AID IN POLITICAL/ MILITARY/STRATEGIC SPHERE, AND NOT MORE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. SENGHOR HAS BEEN SENDING US POINTED MESSAGES TO THIS EFFECT FOR WEEKS, THROUGH HIS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, KEY CONGRESSMEN, TOP STATE OFFICIALS AND AMBASSADOR COHEN. END SUMMARY.

2. FURTHER TO AF ASST. SECRETARY MOOSE'S TALKS WITH SENGHOR ON JULY 27 (REF A) AND MY MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ON AUGUST 2 (REF B), CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. IDRISSE FALL ON AUGUST 10 PROVIDED DATT WITH LIST OF UNREIMBURSED MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT AND COSTS WHICH SENEGALESE ARMED FORCES HAVE EXPENDED FOR UNIFIL/LEBANON AND ZAIRE OPERATIONS. LIT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFICIAL REQUEST TO THE USG AT THIS TIME. RATHER IT IS IN THE FORM OF AN INTERNAL GOS COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF TO MINISTER OF ARMED FORCES, AND MAY BE CONSIDERED AN ADVANCE COPY OR PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF SENEGALESE MILITARY NEEDS OCCASIONED BY THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THESE TWO INTERNATIONAL PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS.

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3. WISH POINT OUT THAT ABOVE PROCEDURE GIVES USG TIME TO STUDY, CONSIDER, REACT, AND CONSULT WITH FRENCH AND OTHERS AS WASHINGTON MAY DEEM ADVISABLE.

4. IN LETTER TO MIN. OF ARMED FORCES AND TO DATT, GENERAL FALL STRESSED FOLLOWING POINTS:

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 DAKAR 6126

(A) IN SENDING TWO EQUIPPED BATTALIONS OF 600 MEN EACH TO LEBANON AND ZAIRE, SENEGAL HAS DRAWN DOWN CURRENT STOCKS AND SPARES TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT ITS STRATEGIC RESERVE IS PRACTICALLY EXHAUSTED, TRAINING CAPABILITY FOR UNITS REMAINING IN SENEGAL IS SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED, AND SENEGAL'S ABILITY TO DEFEND COUNTRY HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY WEAKENED.

(B) UN FORMULA FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO SENEGAL IS BASED ON NUMBER OF DAYS AND NUMBER OF MEN ASSIGNED TO UN COMMAND, BUT UN METHOD OF EVALUATING EQUIPMENT COSTS PUTS SENEGAL AT SOME DISADVANTAGE. MANY SENEGALESE VEHICLES ARE OLD AND DOLLAR VALUE IS VERY LOW. UN REIMBURSEMENT IS THEREFORE QUITE INSUFFICIENT TO OBTAIN REPLACEMENT VEHICLES.

(C) FRENCH HAVE NOT MADE GOOD ON THEIR PROMISES OF EQUIPMENT FOR SENEGALESE IN ZAIRE. BY TIME SENEGALESE UNITS ARRIVED THEY FOUND VERY LITTLE EQUIPMENT. ALSO, FOOD COSTS IN ZAIRE
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HAVE BEEN UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH.

5. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF LISTS OF SUPPLIES, AND EQUIPMENT EXPENDED BY SENEGALESE FOR LEBANON AND ZAIRE. LIST, WHICH IS EXPRESSED IN DOLLAR VALUES, INDICATES SENEGALESE SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS AS RESULT OF LEBANON AND ZAIRE.

CATEGORY	LEBANON	ZAIRE
COMMUNICATIONS EQUIP	\$2,155,025	\$2,365,751
AUTOMOTIVE EQUIP	\$3,804,688	\$2,195,906
MUNITIONS	\$426,269	\$257,363
WPNS/REL. EQUIP	\$539,171	\$640,604
GEN. SUPPLIES	\$538,155	\$466,688
ENGR. EQUIP	\$67,541	\$45,872

MEDICAL SUPPLIES	\$56,075	\$59,633
RESUPPLY/PROVISIONING		
(INCL. TRANSPORTATION)	\$762,556	\$321,101
-----	-----	
	\$8,349,480	\$6,352,918
GRAND TOTAL:	\$14,702,398	

6. DATT, IN RECEIVING LIST, CAUTIONED GEN. FALL THAT USG STUDY AND CONSIDERATION WOULD TAKE TIME BECAUSE THIS WAS NEW GROUND AND WE WERE LOOKING AT NEW DIMENSIONS. GEN. FALL INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD THAT USG WAS MAKING NO PROMISES AND THAT TIME WOULD BE NECESSARY.

7. LISTS ARE NOW BEING TRANSLATED BY DAO/EMBASSY STAFF AND WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS READY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 DAKAR 6126

8. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: THERE ARE TWO ISSUES WHICH WE THINK OUGHT TO BE FACED SQUARELY AT THIS TIME: (1) WHETHER WE SHOULD REFER AND RE-DIRECT AFRICAN, INCLUDING SENEGALESE, REQUESTS BACK THROUGH THE FRENCH, AND (2) WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT FOR SENEGAL.
WE BELIEVE IT IS NO LONGER IN THE USG INTEREST TO TELL SENEGAL

THAT FRANCE IS TAKING THE LEAD IN COORDINATING AND ASSURING THE ONGOING PROVISIONING OF AFRICAN TROOPS IN SHABA, AND THAT THE SENEGALESE SHOULD DIRECT THEIR REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT TO THE FRENCH. SINCE SHABA TWO, PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAS BEEN SENDING US A SERIES OF POINTED MESSAGES. HE FEELS THERE IS A DANGER TO US INTERESTS IN AFRICA IN THE CUBAN-SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE; HE IS NOT ASKING FOR DIRECT US INTERVENTION; HE IS ASKING THE US, HOWEVER, TO HELP AFRICAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS SENEGAL TO OBTAIN THE MEANS TO SOLVE AFRICAN PROBLEMS WITHOUT EXTERNAL INTERVENTION. (AMB COHEN'S CABLE, DAKAR'S 4545 OF 15 JUNE, "WHAT HAVE WE
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LEARNED FROM THE SENGHOR VISIT"). IN ADDITION, SENGHOR TOLD DICK MOOSE ON JULY 27 THAT OF SEVEN MILLION FRENCH FRANCS WHICH SAUDI ARABIA HAD PROVIDED TO THE FRENCH FOR ZAIRE, FRANCE GAVE SENEGAL NOTHING. CALLING FRANCE "STINGY," SENGHOR EMPHASIZED THE NEED OF THE MODERATE STATES IN AFRICA FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE WEST. (DAKAR'S 5719 OF 28 JUNE). DAKAR'S 4707 OF 21 JUNE, 4616 OF 16 JUNE, AND 4578 OF 15 JUNE ARE FURTHER ILLUSTRATIONS OF SENGHOR'S APPEALS TO THE US. "HELP US WITH THE MATERIAL SUPPORT WE NEED AND THE AFRICAN MODERATES WILL GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER." ONE FURTHER POINT AGAINST TELLING THE SENEGALESE TO LOOK FIRST TO THE FRENCH FOR HELP. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE FRENCH ARE PERCEIVED BY OTHER IMPORTANT AFRICAN COUNTRIES, NIGERIA ABOVE ALL, TO BE THE PRINCIPAL DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS OF THE AFRICAN TROOPS PRESENCE IN SHABA, THIS UNDERCUTS THE POSSIBILITY OF WIDER AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA OF A PAN-AFRICAN FORCE AND DIMINISHES THE MODERATE AFRICANS' ABILITY TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN POLITICAL AND MILITARY RESPONSE TO SITUATIONS SUCH AS ZAIRE.

9. CONCERNING THE SECOND ISSUE WHICH HAS TO BE FACED, WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT FOR SENEGAL, I THINK IT IS CLEAR FROM THE ABOVE, FROM SENGHOR'S TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIGH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN EARLY JUNE, AND HIS POINTED REMARKS TO U.S. CONGRESS, HIS FREQUENT TALKS WITH AMB COHEN, THAT SENGHOR IS ASKING FOR US SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN THE POLITICAL-MILITARY-STRATEGIC SPHERE, AND NOT FOR GREATER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. (THE LATTER, AND I BELIEVE STATE AND AID CONCUR IN THIS JUDGMENT, IS JUST ABOUT RIGHT IN SIZE AND DIRECTION.)

10. WE SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO OFFER SOME OTHER THOUGHTS AND POSSIBLE GUIDELINES AS WASHINGTON CONSIDERS HOW TO RESPOND TO SENEGAL'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.

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(A) WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE FULL AND FRANK CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRENCH, BUT WITHOUT DIRECTING SENEGALESE ASSISTANCE REQUESTS TO FRANCE. (THE SENEGALESE BEHAVE LIKE THEY HAVE BEEN BADLY BURNED BY THE FRENCH OVER SHABA. SENEGALESE CONFIDENCE IN FRENCH SUPPORT, AT LEAST FOR THIS TYPE OF OPERATION, IS VERY LOW.)

(B) TO AVOID FRENCH EFFORTS TO SHIFT A MAJOR PART OF THE BURDEN TO THE U.S., WE SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO BOTH FRENCH AND SENEGALESE, THAT A JOINT RESPONSE TO SENEGALESE NEEDS IS ENVISAGED.

(C) USG RESPONSE TO SENEGAL'S NEEDS COULD BE A COMBINATION OF SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE (DAKAR'S 5187 OF 7 JULY DESCRIBES SENEGAL'S SERIOUS FINANCIAL PLIGHT DUE TO MAJOR 1977 CROP FAILURES) AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE.

(D) IF IT IS DECIDED TO ASSIST SENEGAL IN A MATERIAL WAY, BASED ON UNREIMBURSED EXPENDITURES FOR ZAIRE AND LEBANON, USG RESPONSE CAN BE MADE CONSISTENT WITH OUR GENERAL POLICIES -- I.E., SENEGAL'S MAJOR NEEDS ARE IN NON-LETHAL AREAS OF VEHICLE AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.
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Message Attributes

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SAS ID: 1771877
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. MATERIAL SUPPORT TO SENEGAL
TAGS: MOPS, MASS, SG, FR
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a8def264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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